



MEMORANDUM
9 JANUARY 2004

TO: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

FROM: DAVID MERRITT

RE: RUEDI RESERVOIR AND FRYING PAN RIVER ISSUES

With the completion of the Interim 2012 Contract with the CWCB for Release of 10,825 acre feet to the 15 Mile Reach the USBR has finally reopened the contracting process for the balance of the available water under Round II of the Ruedi contracting process. This makes an additional 10,635 acre feet of contract water available. We have applied to purchase 5,000 acre feet of this supply, in two separate contracts of 2,000 and 3,000 acre feet, on an annual contract basis, which will amount to approximately \$350,000/year. While this is indeed a significant investment, it positions the Water Marketing program of the River District very well to deal adequately with future West Slope water demands. The supplies provided by this water repayment contract, in conjunction with our current Wolford and Eagle River supplies, will allow us to address much of the demands projected in the middle Colorado River Basin over the next 20 years, as well as have the flexibility to respond to drought events that may recur.

The good news on the Frying Pan this year is that Ruedi Reservoir nearly filled last year, getting to a storage level of over 97,000 acre feet (capacity is 102,000 acre feet). While providing almost all of the 20,825 acre feet of water committed to the Recovery program, it still finished the water year with about 72,000 acre feet in storage, 30,000 acre feet more than last year, and currently has 69,400 acre feet in storage. The current baseflow of 85 cfs has been maintained since the end of the irrigation season. While this is less than the historical average winter flows, it is twice the CWCB ISF for this reach.

This is largely the result of the USBR agreeing to consider the findings of both the Economic Study and the Fishery Study in future operational changes. These studies were the results of collaborative efforts among the Roaring Fork Conservancy, the River District, the Ruedi Water and Power Authority, and the Homestake Partners, and were coordinated by the Roaring Fork Conservancy. These studies have continued through this fall and into the spring, as we look to how the river system

responds to a return to near normal flow conditions. As we move toward 2019, a date by which Ruedi Reservoir must be repaid, we need to be able to articulate how we wish to see Ruedi operated in the future, and how we will secure repayment to the Federal Government for the Reservoir.